

2008 and served as an Elder in New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Annabelle returned to New York in June 2009 and passed on the morning of August 1st, 2009. She will be remembered as a visionary who believed deeply in her work in the ministry. Her family and friends will remember her great culinary skills, her sense of style, her willingness to listen and her quick wit. Her legacy will live on through her children Donna, Sylvia, Eartha Lee, William, Bobby, Cynthia, Valerie, Yvonne, Jeffery and his wife Patricia and Paul and his wife Gloria. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, a host of loving god-children and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. I oppose this bill because, as the nonpartisan CBO has reported, it will cost taxpayers more than \$15 billion over 10 years. And it could also eliminate as many as 30,000 private-sector jobs.

In fact, H.R. 3221 will eliminate choice, competition, and innovation, while growing government and increasing the deficit. This bill will eliminate choice and competition by ending the Federal Family Education Loan Program and giving the Federal Government a monopoly over student aid financing.

This bill will also reduce innovation and grow the government by expanding mandatory and entitlement spending by billions of dollars.

When will the massive spending and Federal takeover end?

Congress should not be growing government and increasing the debt burden on taxpayers. It has no business putting taxpayers on the hook for defaulted student loans when the private sector would gladly bear this risk.

As Herbert Hoover once said, "blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt." That is a sad truth. We should be working to lessen that burden, not take away their choices and reduce their chances to succeed.

Parents, college presidents, and financial aid professionals are against this takeover. They are the experts on this issue because they are the ones that have to foot the bill. I urge my colleagues to hear them and vote no on this legislation.

HONORING GAIL-BURNS SMITH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of

Gail Burns-Smith, a tireless advocate for victims of sexual assault and abuse. When Gail passed away unexpectedly on September 5th, our country lost an unspoken hero for women everywhere.

As the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services for twenty-two years, Gail drew critical attention to the prevalence of sexual abuse and the need to end assault and support its victims. She successfully secured federal funding for organizations working to end sexual abuse and assist victims and was instrumental in passing numerous laws in Connecticut that work to protect our residents against assault. A leader in her field, Gail recognized early on the need for collaboration between victim advocates and sex offender treatment providers.

On the national level, Gail worked with the Center for Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior to develop the first Victim Advocate Program for sex offender treatment, which became recognized as the national model for such programs. She cofounded the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, an organization that helped to secure passage of the National Violence Against Women Act. Gail also helped to establish the national Women of Color Leadership Project which evolved into the nonprofit Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA).

While we have made great strides thanks to champions like Gail, the work to protect and support sexual assault victims is not over. Today, nearly one in five Connecticut residents has experienced a sexual assault. Twenty-six percent of Connecticut women and 10 percent of Connecticut men are sexual assault survivors. Further, many sexual assault treatment centers are experiencing dramatic cuts to their funding and have become limited in their outreach efforts. Just as Gail did, we must continue to champion efforts to end sexual assault and provide help and compassion to victims. She was a true role model and will be dearly missed.

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 215, a resolution congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and commending its achievements in fostering the establishment and growth of minority businesses in the United States. I know in my own district MBDA is an integral part of the economic development of Orlando. In fiscal year 2008, the MBDA's Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center (MBOC) in Orlando helped minority businesses get \$13.6 million in contracts and \$29 million in financial transactions.

This year in 2009, one of their local success stories includes APC Workforce Solutions, a contract labor, acquisition and management company. With the assistance of the MBDA's Florida Minority Business Opportunity Center, APC recently received a three-year renewable

\$45 million per year contract from Sunoco, Inc. to provide staffing services. The contract is that resulted in the creation of 30 new jobs.

MBDA and its network of centers across the country are helping businesses like APC every day. That's why last year MBDA helped minority businesses get over \$1 billion worth of contracts, \$1 billion worth of financial transactions that helped create more than 5,300 jobs across the country. In this tough economy, agencies like MBDA are helping minority-owned firms succeed and Congress needs to do a better job of recognizing the important job MBDA has been doing over the past 40 years. I am ashamed to say that MBDA was overlooked in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and there was no specific language in ARRA for minority businesses.

In 2050, the minority community will represent 54 percent of the total U.S. population. It is imperative to the continued strength of the U.S. economy to provide for the growth and expansion of minority businesses. The nation is failing to reap the benefits of economic parity through the creation of 16 million jobs, generating \$2.5 trillion in gross receipts and an unrealized tax base of more than \$100 billion per year. Congress must do more to help the minority business community.

I like to say when America has a cold, the African-American community has pneumonia. Right now, Congress is ignoring the long-term health of our economy by ignoring the needs of minority businesses.

Minority-owned firms are in the position to generate long-term employment and economic sustainability in their communities. Minority firms provide nearly 5 million people with steady jobs and create wealth in minority communities. They create jobs, impact local and state economies and pursue global market-places.

MBDA's long term strategic direction is achieving economic parity for minority firms. Economic parity is a benchmark measured by the proportion of U.S. business owned by minorities being roughly equal to the percent of their population. MBDA is focused on creating a new generation of \$100 million dollar minority businesses creating the foundation that helps to close the gap in annual revenues between minority-owned firms and non-minority owned firms. At economic parity, the diverse business community will be larger than the economies of Russia, Italy or Spain. At economic parity, we reduce the unemployment rate from the current level of about 9.4 percent to 7.5 percent. At economic parity, the tax-base that is generated could fund 100 percent of Head Start, 100 percent of State Children's Health Insurance Program or a full 10 percent of the cost estimate to reform healthcare.

In closing, I'd like to again congratulate the Minority Business Development Agency on their 40th Anniversary and reiterate the importance of minority businesses to the economy.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under